

Nomination of Diane S. Ravitch To Be an Assistant Secretary of Education

June 25, 1991

The President today announced his intention to nominate Diane S. Ravitch, of New York, to be Assistant Secretary for Educational Research and Improvement at the Department of Education. She would succeed Christopher T. Cross.

Since 1975 Dr. Ravitch has served as an adjunct professor of history and education for Teachers College at Columbia University. She is one of the Nation's foremost scholars on education. Prior to this Dr. Ravitch was a part-time writer and a full-time mother. Dr. Ravitch serves as an elected member of the National Academy of

Education, which is the Nation's leading honorary organization of education scholars, 1979-present; an elected member of the Society of American Historians, 1984-present; and an elected member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, 1980-present. She is the author of 11 books and nearly 200 articles on education.

Dr. Ravitch graduated from Wellesley College (B.A., 1960) and Columbia University's Graduate School of Arts and Sciences (Ph.D., 1975). She was born July 1, 1938, in Houston, TX. Dr. Ravitch has two children and resides in Brooklyn, NY.

Message to the Congress Transmitting the Report on Restoration of the Baltic States Independence

June 25, 1991

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with Public Law 101-309 (104 Stat. 265), I am submitting to you this report on U.S. Government actions in support of the peaceful restoration of independence for the Baltic States.

In 1940, the Soviet Union forcibly occupied the independent Baltic States of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania. Following sham elections, the three countries were incorporated into the USSR. The United States has never recognized the incorporation of the Baltic States into the USSR. The United States maintains diplomatic relations with representatives of their last free governments and is in close touch with the new democratically elected governments in each of the three Baltic States.

The United States has consistently stood with the majority of Balts who never lost hope that they would one day regain their freedom. In the late 1980s, pro-democracy movements in the three Baltic States emerged and began to grow in strength. Among the most active were Sajudis in Lith-

uania, the Latvian Popular Front, and the Estonian Popular Front and Estonian Citizens' Committees. In largely free elections in early 1990, pro-democracy forces gained a majority in all three legislatures and formed pro-independence governments.

On March 11, 1990, the Lithuanian legislature proclaimed the full and immediate restoration of Lithuanian independence. Eight days later, on March 19, President Gorbachev declared the Lithuanian proclamation invalid and insisted that the Lithuanians restore the status quo that existed prior to March 11 and recognize the supremacy of Soviet law. The Soviet government followed up this decree with intimidating troop movements in Vilnius and later an economic embargo on the supply of key products, including oil and natural gas. Undeterred, Estonia and Latvia subsequently issued their own proclamations espousing restoration of independence as their goal following a transitional period.

In response to the Soviet embargo against Lithuania, I conveyed to President Gorba-